



Climate change: What competencies and which medical education and training approaches?

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Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Much research has been devoted to identifying healthcare needs in a climate-changing world. However, while there are now global and national policy statements about the importance of health workforce development for climate change, little has been published about what competencies might be demanded of practitioners in a climate-changing world. In such a context, this debate and discussion paper aims to explore the nature of key competencies and related opportunities for teaching climate change in medical education and training. Particular emphasis is made on preparation for practice in rural and remote regions likely to be greatly affected by climate change. **DISCUSSION:** The paper describes what kinds of competencies for climate change might be included in medical education and training. It explores which curricula, teaching, learning and assessment approaches might be involved. Rather than arguing for major changes to medical education and training, this paper explores well established precedents to offer practical suggestions for where a particular kind of literacy--eco-medical literacy--and related competencies could be naturally integrated into existing elements of medical education and training. **SUMMARY:** The health effects of climate change have, generally, not yet been integrated into medical education and training systems. However, the necessary competencies could be taught by building on existing models, best practice and innovative traditions in medicine. Even in crowded curricula, climate change offers an opportunity to reinforce and extend understandings of how interactions between people and place affect health.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2874564>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Temperature

Air Pollution: Allergens

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Hurricanes/Cyclones

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Rural

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Injury, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Tick-borne Disease

Tick-borne Disease: General Tick-borne Disease

Respiratory Effect: Asthma

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Indigenous populations

Other Vulnerable Population: Remote populations

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified